

Abstract

Method and apparatus for fault management of computer networks which utilizes a proxy or recruit network device to test the responsiveness of a network device. When a first network device loses contact with a second network device, the first network device uses a proxy network device to determine if the second network device can be reached and reports back to the first  
5 network device whether the contact attempt was successful. The proxy network device may contact the second network device through a different path and/or protocol than used by the first network device.